

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Annual Compliance Report, 2022

Docket No. ACR2022

ERRATA TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 10

(Issued February 6, 2023)

On February 3, 2023, Chairman's Information Request No. 10 (CHIR No. 10) was issued to clarify the basis of the Postal Service's FY 2022 *Annual Compliance Report* (ACR), filed December 29, 2022.¹ Question 3 of CHIR No. 10 is being revised as noted below. In addition, the Customer Access questions were misnumbered and are correctly numbered below. Answers should be provided to the revised questions as soon as they are developed, but no later than February 10, 2023.

Competitive International Mail

3. Please refer to Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, Pub. L. No. 108-188, 117 Stat. 2720, Subsidiary Agreements – Compilation for the FSM, Appendix I, Federal Programs and Services Agreement, Article VI. Postal Services and Related Programs, Paragraphs 14 and 15.² Paragraph 14 states that the Postal Service may provide “technical assistance (including technical assistance to provide any employee training)” to the FAS. It also states that this technical assistance would not require compensation from the FAS, provided that

¹ United States Postal Service FY 2022 *Annual Compliance Report*, December 29, 2022 (FY 2022 ACR).

² Available at <http://uscompact.org/files/FSM%20Publications/Compact%20Documents/Compact%20Subsidiary%20Agreements.pdf> (last visited February 3, 2023). Although the cited agreement is with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commission understands that the agreements with the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are similar in these aspects.

the Postal Service is reimbursed the costs of such technical assistance by Congress. Paragraph 15 states that the Postal Service Inspectors “shall be authorized to investigate any incident, issue or claim regarding mail originating from the United States destined for [the FAS], and to seek reimbursement (as pursuant to paragraph 14) for any cost associated with such investigations.”

Please provide a table that shows the following:

- a. A description of such technical assistance and the Postal Service Inspectors’ investigatory activities and other similar activities that the Postal Service provided to the FAS under the compacts in FY 2022;
- b. The actual or estimated cost to the Postal Service of providing such technical assistance and the Postal Service Inspectors’ investigatory activities and other similar activities in FY 2022 (with an explanation of whether the figure is actual or an estimate and the basis for any estimation);
- c. The amount of any Congressional appropriation to support each such activity in FY 2022; and
- d. The amount of compensation from the relevant FAS for each such activity in FY 2022, if any.
- e. If any such information cannot be provided, please explain.

Customer Access

23. Chairman's Information Request No. 6 asked the Postal Service to provide a copy of or link to the most recent version of the Postal Operations Manual (POM).³ In its response, the Postal Service provided a website link to the POM on the Postal Service's internal-only *Blue* website.⁴ For external users, however, clicking on the website link leads to a webpage showing an error message rather than the POM.⁵ Please provide a public copy of or working website link (that is, accessible to the general public rather than restricted to Postal Service employees) to the most recent version of the POM.
24. CHIR No. 6 asked the Postal Service about the September 8, 2022 issue of the *Postal Bulletin*, which provided a list of recently discontinued post offices via website link rather than in the *Postal Bulletin* itself. CHIR No. 6, question 9. In response, the Postal Service stated that it "currently plans to publish the list referenced in this information request in a future edition of the *Postal Bulletin*." Response to CHIR No. 6, question 9.
- a. Please provide an estimated date for publishing in a future edition of the *Postal Bulletin* the list of discontinued post offices referenced in the September 8, 2022 issue.
- b. Please explain how the Postal Service plans to publish lists of discontinued post offices in future *Postal Bulletin* issues. In the response,

³ Chairman's Information Request No. 6 and Notice of Filing Under Seal, January 20, 2023, question 7 (CHIR No. 6).

⁴ Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-9 of Chairman's Information Request No. 6, January 27, 2023, question 7.a. (Response to CHIR No. 6). The link provided was: "<https://blue.usps.gov/cpim/ftp/manuals/pom/pomtc.pdf>."

⁵ The error message states "This site can't be reached - blue.usps.gov's server IP address could not be found."

please indicate whether the list will be printed in the *Postal Bulletin* itself or provided via website link or other method.

- c. If the Postal Service intends to provide future lists of discontinued post offices via website link or other method, please explain why. In the response, please explain how the Postal Service determines whether to publish these lists in the *Postal Bulletin* or provide them via website link or other method, including any factors considered (e.g., costs incurred from publishing in the *Postal Bulletin*).
 - d. If the Postal Service intends to provide future lists of discontinued post offices via website link or other method, please indicate if the Postal Service plans to amend 39 C.F.R. § 241.3(g)(2) accordingly. If it does not plan to amend 39 C.F.R. § 241.3(g)(2), please explain why.
25. Please provide a public copy of or working website link (that is, accessible to the general public rather than restricted to Postal Service employees) to the most recent version of Handbook PO-101, *Postal Service-Operated Retail Facilities Discontinuance Guide*.
26. In the FY 2022 ACR, the Postal Service describes a three-pronged approach “[f]or the resolution of all remaining suspended Post Offices” FY 2022 ACR at 89.
- a. Please describe in detail how the Postal Service plans to resolve the post offices suspended after the end of FY 2016.

- b. Please provide a timeline for resolving all remaining suspended Post Offices, including the 79 post offices that were suspended at the end of FY 2016.⁶ If a timeline is not available, please explain why and when the Postal Service will determine a timeline for resolving all remaining suspended post offices.

By the Chairman.

Michael Kubayanda

⁶ See FY 2022 ACR at 89; Docket No. ACR2021, *Annual Compliance* Determination, March 29, 2021, 211.